



# UNION COUNTY PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 1, 2023



# PURPOSE

- TO TAKE FILM PLASTICS OUT OF THE WASTE STREAM AND RECYCLE THEM INTO A SECOND LIFE AS COMPOSITE BUILDING MATERIALS MADE BY TREX.





# PARTNERSHIP

- UNION COUNTY IS PARTNERING WITH:

## TREX COMPANY, INC.

- MAJOR MANUFACTURER OF COMPOSITE DECKING, RAILING, AND OTHER OUTDOOR ITEMS MADE FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS.
- HEADQUARTERED IN WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



## DIRECT WASTE SERVICES, INC.

- MAJOR WASTE AND RECYCLING HAULER
- LOCATED IN NEWARK, NJ.





# MATERIALS ACCEPTED IN THE TREX PROGRAM:



**RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG**

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!

**FROM THE STORE**

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

**FROM YOUR PANTRY**

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

**FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR**

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue

 **NexTrex**

[trex.com/recycling](http://trex.com/recycling) 1-800-Buy-Trex



# HOW PROGRAM WORKS:

- THE ACCEPTABLE PLASTIC FILM MATERIAL IS COLLECTED BY PARTICIPATING UNION COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES IN LARGE GAYLORD BAGS BY RESIDENTIAL DROP-OFF (NOT CURBSIDE).
  - COLLECTED AT MUNICIPAL RECYCLING YARDS OR OTHER PUBLIC PLACES.
  - GAYLORD BAGS ARE PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY.
- ONCE THE MUNICIPALITY HAS ENOUGH FULL BAGS STOCKPILED, THEY BRING THESE FULL BAGS TO THE UNION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX IN SCOTCH PLAINS FOR CONSOLIDATION AND PLACEMENT IN THE CONTAINER PROVIDED BY INTERSTATE
  - OUT OF THE WEATHER- MOISTURE IS A MAJOR ISSUE.
  - CALL AHEAD OR EMAIL FOR DROP OFF AT DPW - FLEXIBLE.
- ONCE THE CONTAINER IN THE UNION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS COMPLEX IS FULL, UNION COUNTY STAFF WILL BRINGS THE CONTAINER TO DIRECT WASTE IN NEWARK FOR CONSOLIDATION INTO A 53' TRAILER PROVIDED BY TREX.



# HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS (CON'T):

- ONCE THE TRAILER AT INTERSTATE IS FULL, THEY MAKE ARRAIGNMENTS WITH TREX FOR MOVEMENT OF MATERIAL TO WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA.
  - DIRECT IS COMBINING FILM THAT IS ACCEPTED FROM UNION COUNTY WITH OTHER FILM AND HAVING THAT TRAIERED TO VIRGINIA.
  - GETTING PAID \$0.14/ POUND. COUNTY IS NOT SEEING MONEY.
  - HAPPY TO BE GIVING THIS TO DIRECT FOR HELPING US.
  - COUNTY IS FUNDING PROGRAM(S) THROUGH REA.



# DROP OFF LOCATIONS

- THIRTEEN TOWNS PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM:
  - BERKELEY HEIGHTS
  - CRANFORD
  - ELIZABETH (HAS OWN ROLL-OFF CONTAINER)
  - FANWOOD
  - GARWOOD
  - HILLSIDE
  - NEW PROVIDENCE
  - ROSELLE PARK (THREE LOCATIONS)
  - SCOTCH PLAINS
  - SPRINGFIELD
  - SUMMIT
  - UNION TWP.
  - WESTFIELD (BRINGS US OVERFLOW FROM HIS ARRANGEMENT WITH PLASTIC SERVICES, INC.)

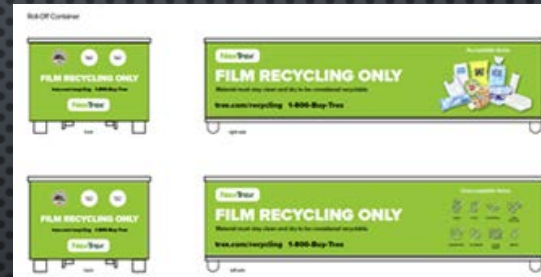
Will be adding:

- Plainfield
- Kenilworth



# ROLL-OFF CONTAINER

Initially:



Yielded 0.39 tons

Then:



Yielded 0.81 tons



# ROLL-OFF CONTAINER (CONTINUED)

Finally:



Yielding over a ton  
(upwards of 1.36  
tons)

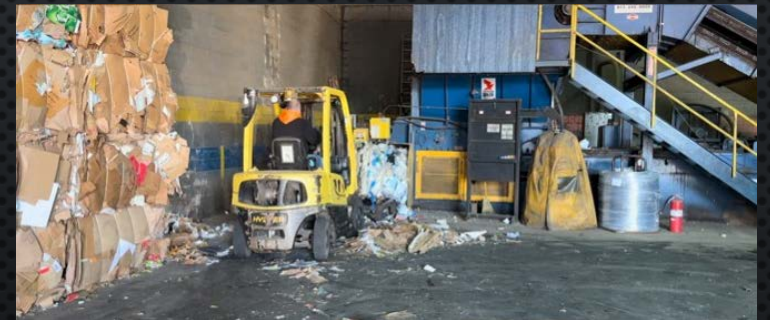


# COMPACTION





# DUMPING/ BAILING AT INTERSTATE





# EXPENSES RELATING TO PROGRAM

- NO DIRECT COSTS WILL BE ENSUED BY THE COUNTY OR ANY PARTICIPATING TOWNS
- INDIRECT COSTS CAN BE PAID THROUGH RECYCLING ENHANCEMENT ACT (REA) GRANTS THAT THE COUNTY RECEIVES FROM THE NJDEP.
  - FUEL EXPENSES FOR THE TRUCK TO NEWARK (HAVEN'T HAD FUND THROUGH GRANTS TO DATE).
  - EXPENSES FOR GAYLORD COLLECTION BAGS.
  - EXPENSES FOR SALARY/ FRINGE FOR DRIVER AND/ OR OTHER STAFF ASSOCIATED WITH LOGISTICAL PLANNING OF PROGRAM (HAVEN'T HAD FUND THROUGH GRANTS TO DATE).



# PUBLICITY FOR PROGRAM

- TREX.



- UNION COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.
- [HTTPS://UCNJ.ORG/RECYCLING/PLASTIC-FILM/](https://ucnj.org/recycling/plastic-film/)
- TAP INTO
- NJ.COM/ SUBURBAN WESTFIELD/ UNION COUNTY LIVING





# CONCERNS/ QUESTIONS:

- MOISTURE CONTENT IN MATERIAL.
- CONTAMINATION OF MATERIAL.
- ALLOWANCE FOR TREX BENCHES.
- GARNERING INTEREST/ PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM.
- IF SUCCESSFUL, ADDING MORE MUNICIPALITIES.



# STATISTICS (SO FAR)-

- Press release for program went out on 11/7/22.
- Inbound ( taken in @ UCDPW) to date:
  - 70 drop-offs so far
  - Including Bloomingdale from Passaic County
  - Various sizes from one or two bags to a ¾ full 20 CY roll-off.
- Outbound ( sent to Direct in Newark) to date:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gross Weight</u>	<u>Tare Weight</u>	<u>Net Weight (in pounds)</u>	<u>Net Weight (in tons)</u>
<b><u>2022</u></b>				
11/22/2022	31120	30340	780	0.39
12/22/2022	36840	35220	1620	0.81
		<b>Total for 2022</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b><u>2023</u></b>				
1/20/2023	30900	29500	1400	0.7
3/8/2023	31460	29560	1900	0.95
5/4/2023	31240	29760	1480	0.74
6/9/2023	32220	29500	2720	1.36
6/22/2023	37260	35860	1400	0.7
8/2/2023	32460	29820	2640	1.32
9/26/2023	31600	29360	2240	1.12
10/27/2023	31680	29540	2140	1.07
		<b>Total for 2023</b>	<b>15920</b>	<b>7.96</b>
			<b>18320</b>	<b>9.16</b>





- THIS IS FIRST COUNTY-WIDE FILM COLLECTION/ RECYCLING PROGRAM IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Success!!! From 11/7/22 (press release date) to present (last drop-off on 10/27/23 we have recycled 9.16 tons of plastic film.



QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS/ CONCERNS?





Stuart A. Newman, CPM, CRP, CCCC  
Environmental Specialist 2  
Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Recycling & Planning  
Department of Engineering, Public Works & Facilities Management  
County of Union  
2325 South Avenue  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
Phone: (908) 654-9892  
Fax: (908) 789-3674  
[stuart.newman@ucnj.org](mailto:stuart.newman@ucnj.org)

